

Socialist Worker

For Workers Power and International Socialism

inside

TUF launches wages campaign

Centre pages: TUF wages campaign.
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\$1

**Tax the greedy
Not the needy**

**User
Pays
Must GO**

Build the fight back!



No money for welfare, but...

Handout for Americas Cup

The Government's decision to give \$500,000 of taxpayers money to Team New Zealand in their bid to win the America's Cup reveals where the Nats real interests lie.

Bolger and his business cronies have repeatedly told us that New Zealand successes in the cup series would produce huge benefits for the New Zealand economy. Indeed, it is claimed that the Government grant is money well spent because it offers the possibility of hundreds of millions of dollars worth of publicity to a world wide audience.

Trade Negotiations Minister Philip Burdon has said that Team New Zealand has given "exceptional publicity" to New Zealand through their efforts.

The handout comes at a time when the Government is unwilling to spend the budget surplus where it is urgently needed — in education, housing and health.

Aside from providing some exciting TV viewing, the Cup races are an obscene flaunting of wealth by the multi-millionaire sponsors at a time when so many people in the participating nations are desper-

ately in need of adequate food and shelter.

\$A4 million went down the gurgler in one hit when One Australia fell apart.

How many needy Australians would that have fed?

What about the needs of ordinary working New Zealanders who have faced attacks on their wages and conditions?

Why has his Government cut benefits and forced thousands of New Zealanders to survive on food-bank parcels?

What about the families struggling to make ends meet who, thanks to the Nats and their business mates, now face the daunting prospect of user-pays education, health and market rents in state housing?

Pay Increases for Politicians

MEMBERS OF parliament got wage increases of up to 5.2 percent at the end of last year. And these are the people who are calling for wage restraint from workers!

Prime Minister Bolger had his

grossly inflated salary increased by \$9,000 — to \$181,500 a year. Back benchers only got an extra \$3,500 — to \$71,000 a year or \$1,365 a week.

In 1990 an MP's basic salary was \$61,000. So they've gone up by 16 percent

over 5 years.

How many shop-floor workers can say their wages have gone the same way?

And don't forget no worker gets the enormous allowances, travel, telephone, postage accommodation and other perks that take MP's wages to over 200,000 a year.

WORK ACCIDENTS

IN NEW Zealand:

- Nearly two workers are killed a week at work.
- 724 workers a week (103 per day) are injured at work.
- At least 32 workers a week are injured at work by occupational overuse.
- At least 139 workers a week develop noise-induced hearing loss in the course of their work.

Profitable "Recovery"

"HOLD DOWN wages" say employers, government and the Reserve Bank. But it's a different story when it comes to profits.

Below are some examples of company profit increases over the last six months of 1994.

	% increase
Air NZ	59
ASB Bank	31
Cavalier Carpets	12
Corporate Investments	99
Fletcher Challenge	24
Helicopter Line	47
Independent Newspapers Ltd	14
Radio NZ	20
Reid Farmers	15
Shortland Properties (12 mths)	50
South Port NZ Ltd	24
Steel and Tube	44
Telecom (3 mths)	17
Taranaki Energy	13
Unisys NZ	13

Bolger's Decent Society



In the 1990 election campaign, Jim Bolger pledged to create a "decent society". Let's see how his promise has translated into reality.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING on tertiary education has fallen significantly since 1991.

Worst hit are the colleges of education where per-student funding has been cut by 17.7 percent. Polytechnics have been cut by 9.3 percent and universities by 7 percent per student.

In real terms these cuts are even worse because over this period the tertiary institutions have been hit with extras costs related to developments like the Qualifications Framework.

These figure, from the Ministry of Education, make a mockery of government propaganda about the importance of education and how much it is spending on tertiary education.

Only last December Education Minister Lockwood Smith announced a further 5 percent cut to tertiary funding over the next five years.

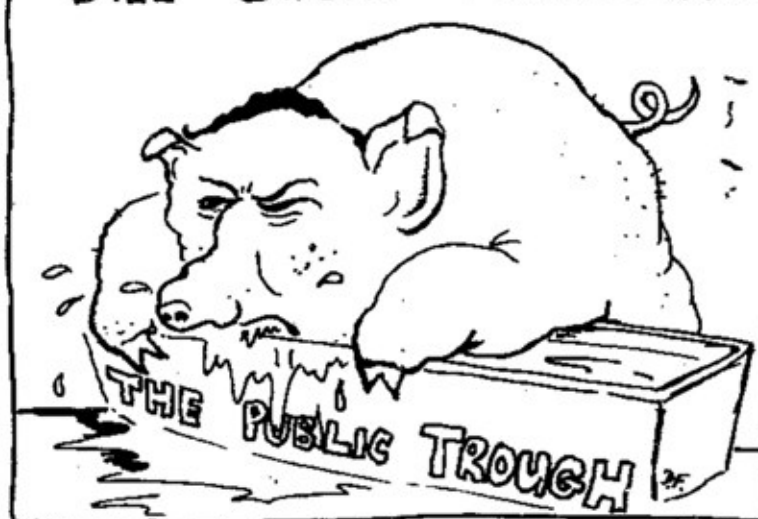
Wellington College of Education principal Graeme Oldershaw says he has been forced to cut staffing by 20 as a result of funding shortages, and the remaining 80 staff have not received a pay rise for five years.

IN THE 1970's a Royal Commission established a NZ "poverty line" figure for a married couple without children. In today's terms that level would be a weekly wage of \$280. Compare that with the following benefit levels:

Unemployment	\$224.45
Sickness	\$225.10
Invalids	\$280.58
Superannuation	\$295.96
Student Allowance	\$224.46

(All figures are for married couple with no children.)

Bill Birch's Foodbank...



The struggle is heating up—let's get the Nats on the run



Angry Auckland students chant as the 3,000 strong march passes through the city centre on May 3

Tainui Maori Trust Board

IN DECEMBER 1994, the Tainui Maori Trust Board through its principal negotiator Bob Mahuta, agreed to a full and final settlement to their land claims with the Government.

Under the \$170 million raupatu land deal, the Trust Board agreed to the return of 14,171ha of Crown land (valued at \$100million) as compensation for the more than 486,502ha confiscated under the 1863 New Zealand Settlement Act.

Over the next five years the Government will put \$65 million into a Tainui controlled land acquisition trust.

The settlement also consists of an apology by the crown for the confiscation of land in 1863 and an undertaking to establish an economic base for Tainui to build on.

A significant number of Tainui say the Tainui Trust Board has no proper mandate for settling the tribe's Treaty of Waitangi land claims in this way.

Less than 350 people actually made the original decision out of 20,000.

With growing opposition to their mandate, the trust board sent out 11,600 ballot forms to eligible Tainui beneficiaries in a postal referendum. Only 4680 ballot papers were returned.

Despite the fact that the trust board has only got the support of 40% of eligible voters, Bob Mahuta claims it has rock-solid support for the deal.

The deal will now be finalized on May 22 and there is talk that the deed of settlement will be pre-signed on May 14.

Many beneficiaries are unhappy with the deal. Those that oppose the deal include Te Kopua marae at Raglan and Te Kauri marae at Huntly.

In the last week of April, about 50 protesters moved on to Coalcorp land in Huntly to protest at the Tainui land claim settlement deal.

The occupiers are determined to stay until assur-

ances are given that the land would be returned to the descendants of Te Whaawhaakia, the hapu which previously lived there.

Most trust board beneficiaries are not from the area, yet they are making decisions that affect those who actually belong there. The trust board's deal with the government makes it possible for the hapu to lose control over their own land.

This has followed the four-week occupation of Waikato University's Marae by Te Toitutanga, which also opposes the land being given to Tainui and not the hapu. Ngati Wairere to which the land belongs.

Te Toitutanga are also seeking a ministerial enquiry into the dealings of the Trust Board because it has shown a lack of accountability.

This opposition to the deal isn't a new thing. Immediately following the agreement with the Government in Decem-

MILITANT PROTESTS in Auckland against the Asian Development Bank Conference, student fees and debt, and for the right to free speech in Aotea Square. Continued and new Maori occupations.

The occupation of the Registry at Otago University.

TUF's proposed wages campaign and growing rank-and-file preparedness to take industrial action.

These all provide clear signs that the fightback against this hated National Government and its big business backers is growing.

AS SOCIALISTS we do everything that we can to support these struggles.

But we also argue that it is not enough to be involved in a single issue campaign or a particular struggle.

It is vitally important that we build a socialist organization that has an understanding of the links between these various struggles and a well thought out strategy for winning them. That's why we want you to join us.

And that's why we put so much effort into producing and selling New Zealand's best selling socialist newspaper – *Socialist Worker*. It is the only place where you will get up-to-date information on all the struggles taking place around the country. Buy it, read it, sell it!

Violence against women

THE MURDER conviction of Gay Oakes last year was an outrageous injustice. In April the Appeal Court dismissed Oakes' appeal. Despite the fact that Oakes and her children suffered 12 years of abuse at the hands of her former partner Doug Gardner, this was not considered grounds for having the conviction overturned.

This verdict constitutes a fundamental attack on all women and our right to act in self defence.

We support every woman's right to act in self defence and fightback against violence and abuse. To end all violence against women we must overthrow the current system and create a socialist society in which women and men are equal.

Gay Oakes' supporters are continuing the battle to obtain justice and are asking for the immediate parole of Oakes. Messages of support can be sent directly to Gay Oakes c/o Paparua Prison.

ber, a breakaway group of Tainui, Te Manaha o Waikato questioned the Mahuta's mandate to make such an agreement.

Spokesperson, Bob Tukiri said that any money and land contained in the settlement would benefit only a small group of people.

Opponents of the deal cite the Trust Board's unpopular decision to rent a corporate box at Ericson Stadium. Estimates for the nine-year lease range as high as \$730,000. The board refuses to say how much it

spent.

It also refuses to say who among the 30,000 Tainui will gain access to the exclusive box. At the Warriors first match, guests in the Tainui box included Jim Bolger, Helen Clark and Winston Peters, none of them Tainui, but all of them in favour of corporate warriors.

What this shows is the growing significance of class divisions within iwi. It also highlights the problems with the government imposition of unrepresentative trust board structures on iwi.

It's a sick system

THE GOVERNMENT'S DRUG-funding agency, Pharmac, is putting restrictions on a new anti-psychotic drug in an effort to save money.

Pharmac's decision to introduce a part charge on the drug chlorpromazine costs most schizophrenics about \$15 a month. But most patients are sickness beneficiaries and do not have that money after paying rent and food bills.

This means at least 2000 severely ill schizophrenic sufferers are missing out on the new drug which reduces the crippling side effects of older drugs.

The convener of the division of psychiatry at Auckland Healthcare, Dr Allan Fraser, noted "...the way that Pharmac is behaving is very clearly cost shifting. If they come back into hospital, which they are likely to do, that's going to cost the country a hell of a lot more."

THINGS THEY SAY

"... you should avoid paying higher wages unless you can improve productivity or are willing to reduce your profit margins."

Reserve Bank Governor Don Brash to employers.

"Differentials are widening between the top and the bottom right through the economy. There are more women, Maori and other minorities at the bottom of the wage pile."

Victoria University Associate Professor of Economics Prue Hyman.

"Gallipoli was not a complete disaster. The Turkish army lost more than 200 000 lives and was never the same again."

British historian and ex-Conservative MP Sir Robert Rhodes James.

"I think [Sir Graham Latimer's] track record speaks for itself. I think he is an astute politician and that is where he should stay."

Ngatihane leader Kevin Prime on Graham Latimer's continued membership of the Tai Tokerau Trust Board after he was convicted of tax offences totalling more than \$700 000.

"When Iraq invaded Kuwait, we didn't want to invade Kuwait and go after the Iraqis alone. We went to the United Nations and recruited 26 nations to join together to accomplish a goal that was crucial to United States' interests."

Former US president Jimmy Carter.

"New Zealand's endorsement of the concept of regional plutonium facilities is hypocritical. On the one hand New Zealand says it opposes the production of plutonium 'for military purposes' but on the other hand supports plutonium 'for commercial use'."

Greenpeace campaigns manager

A lions share in China

LION-NATHAN, the giant New Zealand brewing company, has bought a 60% stake in a Chinese brewery at a cost of \$32.1 million. Lion's chief executive Doug Myers, who is also a prominent figure on New Zealand's Business Roundtable, pointed out this was only the beginning of their involvement in China.

"Now that we've made our first move, our belief is that those seeking out deals with us will accelerate" he stated.

Of course it little matters to Lion or Doug Myers that the people they are doing business with are

the same as those who ruthlessly destroyed the pro-democracy movement in China in 1989 and who continue to run a brutal dictatorship.

All that matters to them is that China is a good investment opportunity. It doesn't matter that it is a brutal dictatorship.

This is hardly surprising given that the bosses of the Chinese Communist Party are equally keen to see foreign dollars flow into China. As the Chairman of DuPont Co., Edgar S. Woodward Jr, said after meeting the Chinese President Jiang Zemin, "[we are] in agreement on our philosophy".

Art for arts' sake

IT LOOKS LIKE companies are back in the business of buying art again. After a slump in corporate purchases following the sharemarket crash in 1987 large companies are again spending thousands of dollars on pieces of art.

Fletcher Challenge has the biggest collection of New Zealand art outside museums and public art galleries, some 700 paintings worth about \$7 million. The BNZ has a 500 piece collection bought in the early 1980's, law firm Russel McVeagh has almost 360 pieces, and Brierly Investments also has a large collection.

ECNZ has a collection of 130 contemporary paintings which it claims meets its requirement as a State Owned Enterprise to be involved in New Zealand society. Remember that the next time your power bill goes up!

Of course, all this collecting isn't just because the companies are all devoted patrons of struggling artists. It is estimated a good collection will increase in value between 250%-500% over a 5 year period. Not a bad return for having a piece of canvas take up room on your wall for a while.

what socialists say about...

Terrorism

MARXISM EQUALS revolution. Revolution equals violence. Violence equals terrorism. Therefore Marxism equals terrorism.

This line of argument is often used by the ruling classes and the media. However, the mainstream of the socialist tradition has always been opposed to the use of terrorism.

The exploitation and oppression we are fighting against are the products not of individual government ministers, nor even of particular governments, but rather of the world economic system of capitalism.

Only the end of this system can end exploitation and oppression. This requires the mass action of millions of working people, not the assassination of individuals or the destruction of targets, whatever their nature.

Terrorism can't build socialism.

Equally, the society with which we want to replace capitalism, one in which people control their own work and communities, can only be built by the mass activities of people themselves, not by the action of minorities.

The fact is that terrorism represents an attempt by a minority, no matter what their subjective motives, to substitute themselves for this mass action. It tells the majority of people to wait in passive acceptance until they are 'liberated' by the active few.

Additionally, terrorism costs innocent lives and can alienate working-class people from causes they might otherwise support. This creates a favourable atmosphere for state repression - witness Clinton's call for widespread 'anti-terrorist' powers following the Okalahoma bombing.

This repression can be used against the left and the worker's movement in general.

Terrorism is therefore not a weapon of working class struggle, but of other classes. It flourishes when people see no hope of collective change

and instead look to the actions of a 'heroic' few to challenge and change the system. No matter what the rhetoric, deluded would-be Marxist terrorists (like the German Baader-Meinhof group or Italian Red Brigades) are in reality no more than 'liberals with a bomb'.

Rulers hypocrisy

But the socialist critique of terrorism has nothing in common with the hypocritical condemnations issued ceaselessly by the ruling class and the media. In the stakes of violence and slaughter of innocents people like Clinton, Bush, and Bolger have no equals. Clinton's claim that the Okalahoma bombing was 'an evil deed' may be true, but does it rank alongside the 200 000 Iraqis, many of them civilians, slaughtered in the Gulf War? What about the continuing genocide in East Timor by the Indonesian army, backed by the West and still uncensored by Jim Bolger?

In any conflict between the forces of imperialist or capitalist states and the terrorist who represents the oppressed, our sympathies are 100% with the terrorist.

Nor do we accept the alternative to terrorism which the mainstream politicians and media propose, passive acquiescence or at best a vote in parliamentary elections. We see parliamentary democracy as suffering the same flaw as terrorism - appointing a tiny elite to act on behalf of the working class itself.

We do not deny the right of the working class or the oppressed to use violence to win their liberation. Indeed, such violence may be unavoidable because the ruling classes of the world will not surrender their power and privilege without a bitter struggle.

But to minimise such violence, and to create a new society free of oppression and suffering, we insist that any violence be exercised by the vast majority of working people, and be directed against the roots of the capitalist system.

■ JOHN MOLYNEUX

NZ STEEL: Workplace Reform Collapses

by BARRY LEE

WORKPLACE REFORM has been canned at BHP NZ Steel because of differences over "priorities".

The current BHP workplace reform scheme is called the Mutual Development Project based on a "charter" of mutual interest — the central point of which is that the "on-going viability" of NZ Steel and the "well being" of Glenbrook workers were "linked".

The charter says the company's strategic plan requires worker/union involvement to "bring our costs down so that we can compete against the world's best producers in their home markets".

Officials of the Engineers Union worked closely with management to sell the

charter on site. Engineers Union assistant secretary Rosalie Webster moved from Wellington to an office at the mill site so she could push MDP through. The chief sales pitch was that unions and workers would be "consulted" over issues like job cuts.

A ballot on acceptance of MDP was carried by a 76% "yes" in May last year — but a large number of workers never voted.

Two months later MDP was in trouble. Site delegates were given half an hour's notice that NZ Steel boss Malcolm Burns was about to publicly announce job cuts. "Consultation" under MDP then became a matter of the company trying to get delegates to pick who would go.

MDP quickly became as unpopular as the previous

Glenbrook workplace reform scheme, the Business Improvement Programme (BIP). BIP became so linked with job losses that the common term on site for redundancy was being "BIPed".

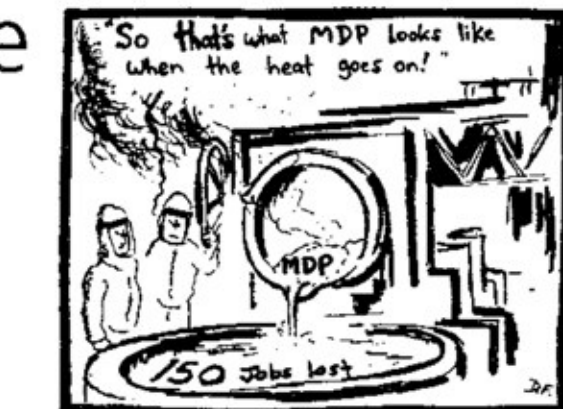
Mill workers began to refer to MDP as "a load of crap".

Last month the failure of MDP became obvious to all. The company had only got 40 of the 150 redundancies it wanted.

"We're disappointed," said managing director Burns. "We're not going to be within cooee of the 150 target by May."

To add to BHP's problems, news has got round that a company study on future staffing suggests that 250 more jobs should be cut in the near future.

On April 19 notice was



This cartoon was published in the Workers Voice, 15.8.94

sent to all mill staff saying that MDP is "on hold".

"Management have been concerned about the lack of progress," it stated, citing the company's "short term needs to address the costs of the business." There had been an "inability" of "both parties" to reconcile their "short term and longer term objectives."

It is clear that NZ Steel management wanted to use MDP to get worker co-operation in its drive for more profits from fewer workers. Now that has failed, where

to for Glenbrook workers?

Bosses have resorted to more heavy handed tactics. On May 3 union activist Dave Yates was suspended on pay after criticising a company report on himself during a team briefing.

If workplace reform has failed to help BHP bosses are to axe the hundreds of jobs they want then they will have to find other ways to break worker resistance.

The challenge for Glenbrook workers is to organise for action to defend jobs and conditions.

VIETNAM WAR: 20 years since US defeat

by BARRY LEE

THIS MONTH marks the 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. The world's mightiest nation had been defeated by one of the smallest and most backward.

The US had dropped three times more bombs on tiny Vietnam than were dropped anywhere during WWII, it had dumped cocktails of poisons on the jungles, poisoned the land and waters, depopulated big areas, burnt, killed and raped — and still lost.

While television showed pictures of the pride of US militarism fleeing from Sai-

gon, thousands of people around the world, including inside the US, were celebrating.

The Vietnam War was different than any other, and it left a lasting mark on a whole generation of humanity — including New Zealanders.

While there has always been some opposition to war and militarism, Vietnam saw that opposition carried to unknown heights. People assumed the right to decide for themselves whether "their" country should be at war and which side was "right" or "wrong".

In World War I NZ conscientious objectors were

dragged to the trenches of France and chained to cannons. In World War II they were "only" jailed. During the Korean War those brave souls who publicly protested met tremendous hostility.

But by the end of the Vietnam War it was the military who were on the back foot. Plans for a grand home-coming parade in Auckland were canned for fear of demonstrations.

Protesters demanded NZ and US troops out — they declared support for the independence struggle of the Vietnamese people. They even carried flags of the Vietnamese National Liberation Front on demonstrations. It was no longer "My country right or wrong" — we were supporting the "enemy", the Vietnamese people's fight for national independence!

This was nothing unique to NZ. Worldwide a whole cross-section of society lived the battles and cheered the US losses. There were over 50 anti-war organisations inside US bases around the world. They even had their own newspapers and organised

their own protests.

US ground troops wore red scarves on patrol to signal that they were not going to take any aggressive action, and the NLF fighters left them alone. A new word entered our vocabulary — fragging — troops killing their officers who tried to make them fight (often by throwing a grenade into the officer's tent while he was asleep).

The level of protest activity in NZ was so great that US sailors would say: "When we visit overseas ports we often strike protests, but when we come to NZ we always get protests." Often they supported the demonstrations.

Those protests started with a handful of people in each city and grew to huge marches of 10 and 15 thousand by the early 1970's. People no longer swore or spat at you — they shouted support from the footpaths!

US imperialism has never recovered fully from its humiliating defeat. While successive US governments continue to intervene wherever American interests are threatened — they are fearful of getting caught

up in another drawn out war and the mass opposition that they know will erupt inside their country. Even the quick, high-tech slaughter against Iraq did not escape considerable opposition.

National liberation movements around the world took new heart — they could win, no matter what the odds!

What happened to all those thousands of people who had been politicised by the war? Some settled into daily life, many carried on to fight other campaigns (like anti-nuclear, anti-apartheid, Maori rights), some came to see the struggle for socialism as the necessary goal. But very few would have been unaffected.

Today people say proudly: "I protested against the Vietnam War".

After those dramatic scenes of the US pullout, with helicopters being thrown off aircraft carriers to make room for more evacuees, we had a big party in Auckland. Hundreds of the old faces were there celebrating.

"We" had won!



Shipboard protest on the US warship Okanogan during its visit to Auckland in May 1968

Indonesian regime attacks journalists

THE INDONESIAN Government has recently begun a clamp-down on independent minded journalists.

Using regulations on the books since 1969 the regime is telling journalists they must join the official Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI) or say goodbye to their jobs. The PWI is closely linked to the ruling Golkar party and supports government policies on the press.

Rifts in PWI started last June when Information Minister Harmoko (a former PWI chairman) banned three newspapers. The ban was supported by PWI leaders, even after there had been a series of popular protests against the bannings.

Targets of the latest attack are members of the newly formed Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI).

The AJI rose from the ashes of the three banned papers, and began publishing a newsletter, *Independent*.

In mid-March the regime clamped down on the PWI and *Independent*.

Two alliance members

and one office employee are being held by Indonesian police for interrogation.

PWI has expelled 13 journalists from its ranks and has threatened action against others who have refused to toe the official line.

BIG JOB CUTS AT BOEING

THE GIANT Boeing aircraft corporation plans to axe 7,000 jobs this year.

In 1989 Boeing employed 107,000 workers in Seattle and a total of 166,000 worldwide. Since then it has dropped to 82,000 in Seattle and 117,000 worldwide.

Of this years cuts, 6,500 will be in the Seattle area. The effect on the local economy will be serious.

The cuts are part of an efficiency drive by Boeing

bosses.

In 1993 Chairman Frank Shrontz and President Phil Condit ordered managers companywide to increase efficiency, slash aircraft-production time in half and reduce the cost of Boeing products by 25 percent in five years.

While the new job cuts will hit Boeing workers hard, not everyone is unhappy. Boeing shares went up 75 cents on the New York stock exchange immediately after the announcement, and another dollar the next day.

That tells it all — greater efficiency means more profits for Boeing bosses from fewer workers!

dustry.

Amnesty believes Iqbal's death fits a pattern of collusion between powerful business families, political groups and local police authorities that has resulted in other such killings and threats against BLLF activists.

Although Amnesty understands an arrest has been made in connection with the death of Iqbal Masih, it believes that all those responsible, including those who ordered the killing, should be brought to justice. That is why it is calling for a full, impartial and independent investigation into allegations that the authorities are implicated in abuses against human rights defenders.

"The government rarely investigates such killings, so few people are ever tried, convicted or punished, and therefore people know they can get away with murder," Amnesty said.

PAKISTAN: Child Activist Killed

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is calling for a full independent investigation into the murder of a child activist in Pakistan.

Twelve year old Iqbal Masih was shot dead in his home town of Muridke, Punjab Province on April 16. At the age of 4 he was sold into labour bondage to a carpet factory owner.

He later broke free from that bondage with the help of Bonded Labour Liberation Front (BLLF) and became an activist helping other child labourers learn their rights and gain freedom.

Although bonded labour is prohibited in Pakistan by an Act passed in 1992, the law is rarely enforced. There are an estimated 7.5 million child bonded labourers in Pakistan today according to International Labour Organisation estimates; of these more than half a million work in the carpet in-

SOUTH KOREAN SOCIALIST JAILED

SOUTH KOREAN socialist Choi Il-bung has been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment under the country's vicious National Security Law.

News of his trial and that of other socialists has been difficult to obtain because of the continuing repression.

Choi Il-bung was found guilty of "benefiting an enemy" — North Korea — and sentenced on April 7.

Choi had done no more than engage in the kind of political activity that is legal in most countries.

The evidence against him was that he had spoken at a meeting of the International Socialists of South Korea and had written to other socialists during a previous jail sentence.

He was one of around 360 socialists, trade unionists and student activists charged under the National Security Law last year.

The charges are a sham. The South Korean regime now trades openly with the North and is even building two nuclear reactors there. It simply uses the law to suppress its opponents.

The arrests are continuing despite prime minister Kim Young Sam's claim that the era of dictatorship in South Korea is over.

Another 19 members of the ISSK are undergoing or awaiting trials at the moment.

Choi has previously been jailed for 2 years for publishing socialist books. In jail he went on a hunger strike simply to be allowed writing materials and uncensored mail.

He was released ahead of time thanks to an international campaign which saw him adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience.

That same kind of campaign is needed again:

Last month the public sector Confederation of Trade Unions in Greece (GSFF) unanimously passed a resolution of solidarity with the South Korean socialists.

The Committee to Defend South Korean Socialists can be contacted at 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2DE, England.

BOLIVIA: State of seige declared

THE BOLIVIAN Government jailed 100 unionists and declared a state of siege on April 20.

The emergency measures came after unionists voted to continue a three week general strike. Bolivian

Labour Federation (COB) leader Oscar Salas was among those arrested under the emergency laws which give security forces wide powers and impose a midnight to 6am curfew.

The general strike began in support of a teachers strike.

Protests have taken place across Bolivia during the strikes, which have become a focus of opposition to government plans for "free-market" reforms and widespread privatisation.

After the state clamp down, COB leaders vowed to "regroup in secret" and continue their struggle against the government.

Cuban Seamen For Hire

CUBA IS contracting out its seamen to foreign shippers and fishing companies to earn foreign currency.

The seamen are contracted through a Cuban company called Guincho Crewing Agency which earned \$NZ5.8 million in 1994 and aims to increase this to \$NZ10.5 million this year.

Guincho aims to hire out 800 Cuban sailors and fishermen in 1995, to man ships from Spain, Greece, Italy, Argentina, Britain, Mexico, Carazao, Venezuela and other nations.

Class Issue

I WOULD like to echo Heather Finn's comments in the March 13 issue of *Socialist Worker*.

I also have more in common with working class males than the likes of Jenny Shipley.

I would, however, extend my comments to the system's army of middle class professional women who can be found in positions of power, employed in the health, education and social work fields as well as the legal profession.

Many of these women not only call themselves feminists, but also claim to be "socialist" and often cannot comprehend the hardship poor women suffer, so they impose their own value judgements and particular brand of oppression on working class women who are trying to bring up families on meagre benefits.

In 1994 when a complaint was made about the cost of a particular women's function in Wellington, the response was that a further function would be held later and that application could be made for lower cost in certain circumstances.

This is a classic example of the patronising way the wealthy attempt to ingratiate themselves to the "lower" classes by trying to appear caring and charitable. Don't bother! Working class women are sick of having to draw attention to their economic situations and boost the "charitable" egos of the wealthy.

My intention is not to insult feminists — just to hope that the more affluent feminists may become more aware of the division of the classes. We are not all equal as sisters. We do not suffer the same oppression.

Many thousands of working class women suffer additional oppression by those who claim to be their allies.

The class struggle must be fought within the women's movement, the Maori movement and the workers organisations.

If we ignore the class issue amongst the women's movement we are merely playing into the hands of the capitalist system which loves to elevate the odd elitist woman so that she can help perpetuate the system.

Liz Harley
Porirua

BOOK REVIEW

Working Class Son, by Ron Smith

By BARRY LEE

Two things made me keen to read Ron Smith's book. Firstly I had heard part of a radio programme on his life, and had been very impressed with his clear memories of his upbringing, the depression, and the Communist Party of the 1940's and on. The other reason was his promise to tell the Wellington side of the big inner-party split that took place in 1969-70.

On the first, the book is a goldmine of facts and detail which will be a historian's delight. And one cannot but be impressed with the clarity of Ron Smith's memory. It really makes you think that any socialist party should have a rule that all members over 70 have to write their memoirs.

On the question of putting the Wellington side of the split — I expected to have differences and did. That is not to question Ron's integrity, but in some aspects the book suffers from incomplete information and a lack of knowledge about what the struggle was all about — which is hardly surprising since it is only recently that members of the former Communist Party are able to really understand that struggle.

In 1969 the Auckland District chairman and secretary suddenly walked out of the party and the whole Wellington District became enemy territory. The rank-and-file were bombarded with volumes of inner-party discussion bulletins with contributions from members on both sides of the barricades (including those in the Wellington group).

Both sides were claiming to be fighting for socialist revolution. Both claimed to be upholding Mao Tse-tung thought. And both claimed



the support of general secretary Vic Wilcox and to be upholding the spirit of an ambiguous report he had issued in 1968.

For what seemed like ages the national committee was split down the middle, and Wilcox had disappeared on grounds of ill health (only to emerge after the battle was over as "leader" of the victorious section).

What was it all about? The real party leadership, central position going to the late Dick Wolf, were unwittingly breaking with Maoism and many of the tenets of stalinism — class collaboration policies like "two stage revolution", three worldism, building a secret party when conditions called for open mass work, burying the party in the mass movements.

Ron is right to criticise idiocies like attacks on the "Manson, Bailey, Goddard, Kelly, Smith, Stanton, Quinn etc revisionist clique" in the *People's Voice* (an idiocy which was knocked on the head by Dick Wolf).

His account suffers from false Wellington propaganda like claims of a "McAra takeover" (when Bill McAra was very much on the outer because he was pushing Maoist "two stage revolution" — unity between NZ workers and capitalist against foreign monopoly), and portrayal of the Progressive Youth Movement as anti-working class (when it was almost exclusively working class and often quite sectarian to "intellectuals").

I could go on, but then this would cease to be a re-

view and turn into a history of the "other side" (which is a book that needs to be written).

I am sure that, had the Wellington section won the 1969-70 battle, the Communist Party would have ended up in the same malaise that eventually saw the demise of the Workers Communist League. Like so many other Maoist and stalinist groups, the WCL eventually became bogged down in its own ideological confusion and dissolved itself.

The CPNZ carried on battling for socialism and the interests of the working class — even if it did continue to defend stalinism for another two decades.

Interestingly Ron begins to question stalinism in his book, but leaves it as a criticism of excesses, failing to bridge the gap to see the roots of those "excesses" which stem from the existence of state capitalism in Russia, not some form of socialism or deformed socialism.

Likewise his concerns about Tiananmen Square don't break his hopes for what he believes to be "socialism" in China.

As a history it has errors (but what history doesn't) as a personal memoir it is well worth reading for anyone who wants to get a wider picture of the state of the socialist movement and the anti-nuclear and other campaigns over those decades.

It is available from:

Unity Books,
Wellington.

One World Books,
Auckland.

or

Ron Smith,
11 High Street,
Island Bay,
Wellington.

SUPER-EXPLOITATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

THE LOCAL superette employs under-age teenagers illegally so as to avoid paying taxes on their earnings. The wage remains at a fixed low rate since the time of employment, despite working up to twenty-five hours per week, including weekends and public holidays.

In the event of an accident there is no place for an employee to even sit down, let alone lie down if the injury is bad.

I cut myself accidentally during a busy period at work when we were, as usual, understaffed. As my arm required stitches I left work to go to the Accident & Emergency clinic, where I had to lie on the ACC form about how my injury had occurred.

At the superette employees are not given breaks and often work up to eight hours without even being allowed to sit down.

B.
Auckland

It's time to rebuild our unions and fight back

Socialist Worker trade union conference

FIFTEEN HUNDRED trade unionists from all over Britain assembled in Manchester in late March for the Socialist Worker union conference. Tony Cliff, a leading member of the British Socialist Workers Party began the conference by contrasting the working class victories of the 1970s and the defeats of the 1980s. Cliff explained how rank and file confidence was the key to the series of working class victories during the 1970s. Indeed, 95 percent of strikes were unofficial. But in the 1980s defeat followed defeat.

However Cliff pointed out that "today we are not in the 1970s or the 1980s. We are not going from victory to victory. But neither are there catastrophic defeats. We are in a period of transition."

Although there have been a number of examples of workers winning struggles, these successes were not followed by other victories. Cliff emphasised how

important it was to introduce solidarity into the language of the trade unions and how important it was to do this concretely by organising petitions in support of strikes, taking collections, preventing scabbing and so on.

The conference was about drawing together socialists in the workplace.

Chris Harman summed up the conference by arguing union activists need to do four things:

"We have to fight for representative shop stewards who report back and try to involve other workers in the union. We have to fight for joint shop stewards' organisations that look to build across different sections in a workplace or industry. We have to support the left against the right in elections but with an independent organisation. Solidarity is indispensable." LEE and ROPER report.

Conference resolutions – a step by step guide to rebuilding our unions

As a result of discussion at the conference a resolution was passed on Building the Fightback. We print extracts below.

WORKING people have suffered enormously over the last 20 years. Millions of jobs have been destroyed. The welfare state has been ravaged. Yet prospects for a fightback should be better than at any time since 1979.

The government has survived because the Labour Party and trade union leadership have failed completely to provide the lead which people need.

There is a growing number who feel now is the time to turn the tide.

The key to success lies in rebuilding fighting union organisation from the bottom up.

That involves the following:

- (1) We fight for 100 percent membership of genuine trade unions in the section where we work.
- (2) We actively seek to recruit workers to trade unions. Survey after survey shows the potential for millions more workers to join unions if only they were asked.
- (3) We fight for the election of stewards and

reps who see their role as building resistance to the management and the Tories rather than cuddling up to the bosses.

(4) In each section we take up the immediate issues affecting those we work with. But we also seize every opportunity to encourage wider solidarity. This can be done by making collections for other struggles, arguing for respecting picket lines or blacking scab goods, and opposing every manifestation of racism.

(5) We fight for strong joint shop stewards and reps committees, made up of representatives who are strongly based in their own sections.

(6) We insist that any facility time is used to enable stewards, convenors and reps to organise workers in their sections rather than for endless meetings with management.

(7) We refuse to be intimidated by the anti-union laws for fighting for our fellow workers and showing solidarity. Employers and the government can only get away with using anti-union laws if we bow down before them.

(8) We argue with our fellow workers not to put off responding to management attacks while waiting for ballots. There are many instances in which we have no choice but to campaign over ballots for action, but we do

not allow ourselves to be held back by them. We recognise that if there has to be a ballot, the best time to have it is when we are already united taking action.

(9) We argue against the attempts by the Tories and the media to scapegoat minority groups, or to use racism and sexism to divide us. We stand firm against all racist ideas in our workplaces and try to force organised Nazis out of them.

(10) We oppose all attempts to turn employed and unemployed workers against each other. We oppose all

redundancies, "voluntary" as well as compulsory, pointing out these are invariably accompanied by worsening conditions for those who retain their jobs.

We oppose measures like the Jobseeker's Allowance, which scapegoats the unemployed and tries to use the jobless as a cudgel against the wages and conditions of employed workers.

(11) We argue against the Labour leadership's attempt to ditch Clause Four. They want to destroy any notion that there is a socialist

alternative to the existing system, so paving the way for a Labour government which would try to follow policies essentially similar to the Tories. The more people who support Clause Four the greater the resistance to Labour's manoeuvres, whether in opposition or in government.

(12) We seek to build networks of activists in every area and every industry that can show solidarity and learn from each other. In this way we can begin to build from below an alternative to the disastrous approach of the national union leaders.

This is not just an industrial task. It also involves taking up political arguments. For this reason we see the building of the sales of *Socialist Worker* as part and parcel of our work. *Socialist Worker* provides information about struggles that workers cannot find anywhere else. It counters the ideology of the Tories and right wing Labour. It argues how workers can fight and win.

It is a vital organising tool in building resistance inside the workplaces. Here in New Zealand, our own *Socialist Worker* is playing a small role in linking union activists.



WHILE THE bosses' profits soar and the rich have never had it so good, we are being forced to accept further cuts in our real wages. Court staff are not the only workers who have had a guts full. A general mood of anger is emerging and there is a feeling that "we've had enough – it's time to fight back".

BUILD SUPPORT FOR TUF WAGES CAMPAIGN

THERE ARE a number of ways in which we can build this campaign:

- help to publicize the issue of wages not keeping up with inflation
- organize practical support for any group of workers taking strike action to push for a wage rise
- argue for strike action
- fight for a general wage rise and against the anti-union ECA

Socialists and the trade unions

SOCIALISTS IN the Trade Unions by Alex Callinicos was published recently. It appears as more workers look towards organising at work in response to attacks on pay and conditions, job losses and constant pressure from the bosses.

The book argues the decline in union membership has been exaggerated and that where membership has declined it is largely because union leaders have failed to seize opportunities to win new members.

It goes on to look at the strengths and weaknesses of unions and why union leaders so often hold back the fight. It analyses the history of how ordinary union members have organised to combat both the bosses and the refusal of their own union leaders to spearhead resistance.

Alex sets out the lessons of trade union struggles from the beginning of the century right up to the present day. He ends by defining the tasks today and the need for socialist politics as well as industrial militancy.

"Experience teaches us that, sooner or later, the resentments that have accumulated during the long years of defeat will burst out in an explosion of struggles", says Alex. This book will help us to bring that day closer and to be ready when it happens. Price: \$10. Write to SWO Box 8851, Auckland

TUF wages campaign

WORKERS THROUGHOUT New Zealand will be looking to the wage campaign being launched by the Trade Union Federation.

The recent TUF conference endorsed a campaign aimed at:

A substantial wage rise for all workers in 1995; The minimum wage to be lifted to \$7.30 per hour; A substantial wage rise for all workers in 1995; The minimum wage to be lifted to \$7.30 per hour; An end to casualisation; Permanent work permanent hours; Jobs for all.

These demands will strike a chord with all workers who have had their standard of living cut since the Employment Contracts Act came into force in 1991.

The TUF campaign will begin with a publicity drive, "talking up" wage expectations and giving workers confidence to push for higher wages or a more permanent form of employment.

This is to be followed by

the organisation of struggles around the four demands.

Starting points for adoption of the TUF minimum wage are seen as city, district and regional councils, NZ Employment Service (for its job boards), and voluntary organisations.

Telephone "hot-lines" are proposed as points of contact for workers who have had no increase for some time, those on rates below the TUF minimum, and unorganised workers wanting union assistance.

Steps are being taken to identify groups of workers whose contracts minimum, and unorganised workers wanting union assistance.

As the campaign builds it is envisaged that a "going rate" of at least 4 percent will be established. Workers will be encouraged to strike and take other forms of industrial action and to seek support from other workers.

TUF also intends to campaign for a significant increase in the minimum wage, leading up to the 1995 Review of the Minimum Wage. It sees the \$7.30 figure

as a first step towards building the minimum rate to two thirds of the average wage (which would be \$9.45 on today's figures.)

In the 4 years since the ECA came into force workers have become increasingly angry, and increasing frustrated at the refusal of Council of Trade Unions leaders to initiate any resistance to the continual attacks on wages and conditions. Those workers who have taken strike action have shown a much greater determination to resist employer and police pressure, and to hold out for their demands.

Politicians and employers are talking about an economic recovery. Workers are asking, "Where is our share?" There is a smouldering volcano of anger and unrest among workers and other sections of the community who have suffered from the cutbacks.

If the TUF campaign starts to get results it could well become the catalyst for a much wider working class fight-back.

The New Zealand Council of Trade Unions and the role of officials

THE NZCTU was established as a united national trade union federation at its first conference in October 1987 bringing together, for the first time, the overwhelming majority of private and state sector unions.

In terms of membership numbers and coverage as well as organisation and resources, the new federation was potentially the most powerful in New Zealand's history.

Yet despite the evident potential power of the new federation, the NZCTU has consistently failed to successfully oppose and defeat any of the major anti-worker policies of the

fourth Labour Government or the current National Government.

During the period leading up to the passage of the ECA in May 1991 the NZCTU leadership failed to organise and lead the kind of generalized strike action that would, at the very least, have forced the National Government to substantially amend or withdraw the legislation.

The most fundamental reason for the conservatism and timidity of full-time union officials is the

fact that their role in conducting negotiations and making compromises with employers is dependent upon the continued existence of the capitalist system which centrally involves the subordination and exploitation of the workers they represent.

Trade unions play a vital

role in defending workers interests within capitalism because they counter this exploitation to some extent. But generally they do nothing to seriously challenge it. Union officials will do everything in their power to avoid a 'head-to-head' confrontation with employers and the state in the form of a general strike.

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Socialism

Capitalism is a system of exploitation which generates inequality, crisis and war.

Although workers create society's wealth, it is controlled by the ruling class for its own selfish ends.

Socialism can only be built when the working class takes control of social wealth and democratically plans its production and distribution to meet human needs, not private profits. This will eliminate all class divisions in society.

Stalinist countries such as China and Cuba, just like the former Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc, have nothing to do with socialism. They are state capitalist. We support the struggles of workers against every dictatorial stalinist ruling class.

Revolution not reformism

The present system cannot be reformed to end exploitation and oppression, contrary to what Alliance, Labour and union leaders claim. It must be overthrown by the working class.

Capitalism's parliament, army, police and judiciary protect the ruling class. These institutions cannot be taken over and used by the working class.

**where
we
stand**

To pave the way to socialism the working class needs a new kind of state – a democratic workers state based on workers councils and workers militia.

Internationalism

Workers in every country are exploited by capitalism, so the struggle for socialism is global.

We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries. We fight racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls. We support all genuine national liberation struggles.

We are internationalists because socialism depends on spreading working class revolutions around the world.

Liberation from oppression

We fight for democratic rights. We oppose the oppression of women, Maori, Pacific Islanders, lesbians and gays.

All forms of oppression are used to divide the working class.

We support the right

of all oppressed groups to organise for their own defence. Their liberation is essential to socialist revolution and impossible without it.

Tino rangatiratanga

We support the struggle for Maori self determination.

The government's approach to Treaty claims has benefited a Maori elite while doing little for working class Maori.

Tino rangatiratanga cannot be achieved within capitalism. It will only become a reality with the establishment of a workers state.

Revolutionary party

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a mass revolutionary socialist party.

We are in the early stages of building such a party through involvement in the day-to-day struggles of workers and the oppressed.

The Socialist Workers Organisation must grow in size and influence to provide leadership in the struggle for working class self-emancipation.

We need to revitalise the unions with a rank-and-file movement.

If you like our ideas and want to fight for socialism, then join us.

socialist activity

Active in protests

SWO AND Socialist Worker Student Club members were active in the big student protests in Auckland and Wellington on May 3.

Dunedin Branch played a prominent part in the occupation of Otago University registry. In Auckland a group of students are seriously discussing occupations with socialists on campus.

Socialist Worker sales and membership held steady. Wellington Branch sold 16 papers in the street, Auckland 35 in Saturday morning sales in two shopping centres and Dunedin 15 in the Octagon.

24 Papers were sold at ADB protests on May 4. Around 80 people came to the Dunedin May Day social that was jointly organised by the SWO branch and the Otago campus Alliance.

Waikato members were back outside Horotui freezing works with placards of support during the AFFCO week-long strike.

SWO branch meetings – all welcome

AUCKLAND 7pm every Tuesday at the Socialist Centre, 86 Princes St, Onehunga. Phone 6343 984.

- ☐ MAY 9 The Asian Development Bank: Exposing the international moneylenders.
- ☐ May 16 Social.

Sunday May 14 – SWO Rebuild Unions Forum.
11 am, Socialist Centre
Shared lunch

Paper sales Every Saturday, meet at the Socialist Centre at 10am.

WAIKATO 7pm every second Tuesday at the Red Cross Rd, London St, Hamilton. Phone Ross in Hamilton 847 6302 or Karl in Huntly 828 9471.

TIMBERLANDS 7pm every second Tuesday at Apumoana marae, Tarawera Rd. Phone Bernie 345 9853 or Martial 357 4536 in Rotorua.

- ☐ May 16 Is socialism dead?

WELLINGTON 7.30pm every second Monday at People's Resource Centre, 2 Luke Lane (off Te Aro Park). Phone Gordon 387 7380.

- ☐ May 15 What is nationalism?
- ☐ May 29 Are the unions dead?

Paper sales 12 noon to 1.30pm every Thursday at Manners Mall.

CHRISTCHURCH 8.00pm every second Sunday at the WEA, 59 Gloucester St. Phone Roy 3844 681.

- ☐ May 21 Unemployment and the 1930's depression.
- ☐ June 4 Is socialism relevant to today's world?

DUNEDIN 7.30pm every Thursday at the Clubs & Societies Building, 84 Albany St. Phone Brian or Laurel 4736 047.

- ☐ May 11 How we can beat National.
- ☐ May 18 Why we support Maori occupations.
- ☐ May 25 The Environmental Crisis – Causes and solutions.
- ☐ June 1 It's time to re-build the unions.

OTHER AREAS The Socialist Workers Organisation also has members and supporters in North Shore, Napier, Kawerau, Raglan, Palmerston North, Timaru and the West Coast. They can be contacted through the Socialist Centre in Auckland (09) 6343 984.

join the socialists

- ☐ I want to join the Socialist Workers Organisation
- ☐ I want more information about membership

Name

Address

Phone

Union/campus

Send to: SWO, PO Box 8851, Auckland

**"Philosophers
have merely
interpreted
the world.
The point is
to change it."
— Karl Marx**

Inflation and wages

WHEN MOST OF us think about inflation we think about the cost of living.

In order to live we spend our income on housing (rent or mortgage), food, transport, heating, clothing, and so forth. When the costs of these things go up, we assume that this is inflation.

Historically the main official measure of inflation has been the Department of Statistics' Consumer Price Index or CPI.

The CPI doesn't always provide a reliable indication of the changes in the cost of living faced by working class households. This is because the CPI measures changes in the prices of a basket of goods and services in order to trace changes in all prices.

In order to do this it gives a particular weighting to the different goods and services that make up its 'basket'. For example, at present credit costs or interest charges make up 6.5% of the CPI.

The problem with this is that most working class households with mortgages spend a far high proportion of their income on interest payments than that. So the CPI is not a perfect measure of workers' living costs.

But the CPI does at least have the virtue of including the major items in the budgets of workers.

Is 'underlying inflation' real inflation?

The Reserve Bank and the Nats tell us that the CPI or 'headline inflation' is not what workers, beneficiaries and students should look to when we want an increase in our income to keep up with increases in the cost of living. They claim that 'underlying inflation' is what counts.

This is bullshit. The 'underlying inflation' measure removes 'credit costs', government charges, and oil prices. This means that when mortgage interest rates go up by 13.9%, as they did from January to March this year, this isn't counted as part of inflation. This despite the fact that mortgage payments are usually the biggest outgoing in most households.

It also means that if the government puts up university fees and health charges, then

that will also not be counted as inflation. Nor will increases in state housing rentals. And if it costs more to fill up the car with petrol, that also isn't counted as inflation.

Basically, the Reserve bank wants to be able to squeeze workers, beneficiaries and students to bring down inflation but it wants to hide this by excluding mortgages, government services, and oil prices from the official measure of inflation.

It also wants an official measure of inflation that is lower than real inflation so that workers will continue to accept wages increases that do not keep up with inflation.

We must fight for a wage rise

Despite the fact that we are constantly being told that the economy is booming, real wages have declined over the past two years. The official real wage index declined slightly by 0.01% in the two years to December 1994.

The situation has got much worse this year. This is because while most workers are locked into contracts with either no increase in wages or else increases from 1.5-2.5%, real inflation has increased this year to 4%.

CTU secretary Angela Foulkes has called for pay rises to offset inflation. This is dead right. But the problem is that the CTU leadership is doing absolutely nothing to provide national coordination for a general wages campaign. It has not even publicly supported TUF's call for a general wage campaign.

The CTU should be publicizing the reality that workers are suffering from a major cut in real wages this year. It should be establishing 4% as the base-line minimum for wage claims. And there desperately needs to be more support provided at a national level for workers taking strike action.

But if we wait for the current CTU leadership to do this, we will be waiting a long time. It is time to start challenging the anti-worker provisions of the ECA. Why should we wait for our contracts to expire while inflation goes up and our wages do not? We need action now.

Jimspeak

"I support freedom of speech"

THAT'S THE REASON the Prime Minister gave for not interfering with the stinking sack of rubbish that his minister of tourism calls a radio programme.

It's a funny old thing, this freedom of speech. Politicians from capitalist democracies have always tried to claim it as their own special virtue. When forced to admit that their system has been unable to fix up unemployment or prevent poverty, environmental damage and wars they always come back with 'well, at least you can get up and say whatever you want in this country.'

Compared with Stalinist Russia, or East Timor or China, this is true. In New Zealand today you won't be taken away and shot in the back of the head for expressing an opinion. So at least one thing we don't have to worry about is free speech, right?

Unfortunately not. The myth of free speech does not quite match up to reality. For example, the socialist movement in New Zealand has always had uneven access to free speech.

In 1916 socialists here were dealt imprisonment with hard labour for speaking out against conscription and their public meetings were banned. In the 1920s people were imprisoned for possession of Marxist pamphlets. During WWII the printing office of the socialist newspaper - *Peoples Voice* - was broken into by the police and all the machinery smashed.

Why is the media biased?

How often have you watched the T.V news and got really pissed off because the coverage of a strike, protest or occupation is biased?

Striking workers, Maori occupiers and student protesters are portrayed as unreasonable extremists. This despite the fact that workers are simply striking for wage increases to keep up with increases in the cost of living. Maori have perfectly justified grievances, and students simply want an accessible and adequately funded education system.

By contrast, when Business Round-table Chairperson Doug Myers, who is N.Z.'s richest man, demands that the government should cut benefits, privatize health and raise university fees in order to fund further tax cuts for the rich - these extreme claims are presented as entirely

Throughout the 1951 waterfront lockout the *Peoples Voice* - and all other media - were prevented by the government from publishing the wharfie's case.

In recent times it's been public health workers who have been faced with the sack for speaking out against the National Government's health reforms. And right now there's a substantial free speech question coming up at the Aotea Centre in Auckland.

As I write the cops are visiting a wide range of leftwing organizations and community groups, trying to warn them off protesting outside the annual meeting of the Asia Development Bank.

People want to protest because this

bank has an ugly history of helping big bosses make big profits in the most repressive countries in Asia, at the expense of workers' wages and heavy damage to the environment.

The police intend to ban protesters from Aotea square, which will be closed to the public for the five days that the conference is held there.

If mister Bolger is to be consistent in his crusade for freedom of speech he'll be all for the people having a say as well as the rich bankers.

Perhaps he'll insist on protesters having access to the square.

Perhaps John Banks will champion the protesters' rights on his radio show.

Perhaps tomorrow it will rain gin and tonic.



reasonable.

In capitalist society the media is not neutral or objective as it claims.

Media institutions are owned either by the government or by rich private capitalists like Kerry Packer or Rupert Murdoch. They depend on advertising revenue which comes from business. And they rely on 'news sources' which can give them neatly packaged information - which government and business can provide them with much more easily than strikers or protesters.

So when we sit down to watch the news it shouldn't surprise us that the media is consistently right-wing and acts to justify and reinforce class inequality, women's oppression and racism. That is why we need a paper like *Socialist Worker*. Where else are you going to find out what is really happening?

World War II: Whose war was it anyway?

OVER THE LAST year, our tv sets have been bombarded with the images of an old war fought thousands of miles from home. It is the fiftieth anniversary of some of the key battles of World War II: Crete, El Alamein, Monte Cassino, and D-Day. This year it all reaches a crescendo with the commemoration of VE Day and VJ Day, 1945-1995.

But what were things like closer to home? JULIA BAXTER looks at the NZ labour movement during World War II.

NEW ZEALAND WAS the first of the British territories to introduce conscription, and of the allies, was second only to the Soviet Union in the proportion of its citizens in the armed services. All other adults were mobilised for what was classified as "essential civilian work" and placed under the power of a Manpower Board.

Bosses Profit...

The Strike and Lock-out Emergency Regulations of 1939 forbade strikes and any incitements to strike. An Industrial Emergency

Council composed of employers and trade union leaders suspended rates of pay and conditions of work. The working of longer hours without paid overtime was a concession made nowhere else in the British Empire. At the same time, over the five year period 1939-1944, company incomes increased around 80%.

Anti-worker legislation

Representing the union movement on the Industrial Emergency Council were the seamen's Fintan Patrick Walsh and the min-

ers' Angus McLagan, vice-president and president of the Federation of Labour respectively. They allowed the Attorney-General the power to dismiss any employees from any position they held and to exclude individuals from any union.

This made it possible for any industrial militant to be rapidly shunted off a work-site, into the army and overseas.

Workers' rights attacked

In addition to this anti-worker legislation, Minister of Works Bob Semple (a former "Red Fed") signed circulars to the foremen on State projects all over the country demanding the dismissal of workers guilty of "subversive" talk and calling for the compilation of a national Black List of militant workers.

Workers' rights were ruthlessly undermined by the leadership of the La-



Wartime Minister of Works Bob Semple

bour Party and the Federation of Labour. This reached its peak in October, 1942, when Prime Minister Peter Fraser appointed McLagan to the Upper House and co-opted him into the War Cabinet as Minister of Industrial Manpower. With

the strongest-ever Labour Government in office, together with a union leadership helping command the heights of the economy, the New Zealand working class came out of this "victorious" war worse off than when it went in.

The growing anger: workers fightback

THE ONE STRIKE that really lit up the times was in 1942 among the freezing workers of Auckland.

The Hellaby Freezing Company's increased its dividend to shareholders from 7% to 9% at a time when workers wages were 'frozen.' In response a number of illegal strikes and stoppages were called.

On March 12, three hundred and fifty members of the Auckland Freezing Workers' Union walked out at Hellaby's. At issue was the continuing grievance of a "yellow" company union which had refused the AFWU permission to address sixty women directed into the cannery department by the local Manpower Board.

Workers' solidarity

Four days later, 1600 workers employed by the Westfield Freezing Com-

pany went out in support of the Hellaby strikers. The following day AFWU members at the AFFCO Works at Southdown and Kings Wharf joined the strike, bringing works in the Auckland metropolitan area to a stand-still.

Scabs

Minister of National Service Bob Semple ordered strikers to return to work under the War Emergency Regulations (WER) and then proceeded to de-register the AFWU.

Prime Minister Fraser broadcast an appeal for "volunteer" labour to take the jobs of the 3000 out on strike.

Auckland watersiders placed a ban on the scab meat now coming from the works and refused to load it.

On March 20, 81 workers from Westfield, who

were already under suspended sentences for an earlier stoppage were sentenced to a month's hard labour.

Sentenced

The following Monday 213 men from Hellaby's were tried for breaches of the WER.

The magistrate sentenced each accused to a month's hard labour. However, the FOL well aware of its members' growing resentment at the reduction in their living standards while others were minting quick fortunes, informed the government that if the imprisoned men were not released forthwith, a general stoppage of work would be called.

Prosecutions were withdrawn and the men freed by the end of the week.

In the national interest?

The sacrifices workers were asked to make in the 'national interest' increasingly entailed poor pay, intolerable working conditions, and the infringement of their basic right to organise at work. Although there was a determination to defeat the Nazis, the war also created tensions which raised questions in the minds about its real purpose.

It was apparent that bosses in NZ were reaping huge profits off the back of the war effort.

For the rest of society, the long hours and inadequate conditions meant that as the war went on, ordinary working people became more unwilling to tolerate this unequal sacrifice.

They expressed their anger in the workplace, where they had the greatest chance of being heard.

Far from lying dor-

mant, class struggle actually intensified during the war.

Indeed, despite the trade union leadership claim that industrial militancy was "scabbing on the Labour Government", there were a number of significant strikes during the war.

The miners and the watersiders, traditionally militant unions, gained improvements in their conditions by industrial action.

In addition to the strikes, the pressure of women entering the work-force in large numbers saw women tram conductors in Auckland become the first women workers to achieve equal rates of pay.

Such strikes were more often than not organised completely independently of the trade union bureaucracy, and in most cases were completely illegal.

LET'S START TAKING TELEVISION SERIOUSLY

by BARRY BROWN

SHORTLAND STREET is into its third year on TV2. **Melody Rules** is running for 26 episodes on TV3. And South Pacific Pictures' **Plainclothes** is attempting to establish itself as a major presence on TV1.

It's all action on the local front. So why do I feel depressed?

Toward the end of last year I stood unhappily at a bar listening to a writer, a veteran of **Close To Home** and **Shortland Street** and **Marlin Bay** and currently writing for **Plainclothes**, explaining that scripting for television was work that "should subsidise other work, more important work" and that this writer was "thinking of doing something good for a change — a stage-play, say".

It's time for writers and producers to start taking television seriously.

What's happened to New Zealand society in the last ten years is cynical and savage and what's appalling is that it happened with so little fight. We can't even look back and say that we



Gillian Baxter is Constable O'Connor in **Plainclothes**

lost the war here or there because of some tactical misjudgments during a crucial battle.

We lost it without a war, without a battle, without a fight.

Sure, we can raise yells of treachery, of cowardice in high places, but this knowledge that nothing was done infects us all like some sort of poison, and our television writers are infected with it as much as any other worker.

But television writers are doubly poisoned. They see their words re-written, their ideas cut to shreds (or more often simply ignored) to accommodate the channel's demands, so they sit in bars and cafes shrugging their shoulders and practi-

cally boasting they have no responsibility for anything, almost relishing being one of the cogs in a gleaming machine that knows no morality except the marketplace.

Then they talk about writing something "serious". For some other medium.

Television is serious. It is watched by a mass audience. It is half-believed.

Writers have to be in the thick of it, demanding and demanding that the television audience deserves the best.

Theatre audiences exist only because there's always going to be a crowd wanting to make public display of their university education. Television audiences don't have tertiary qualifications. They sit and watch in hope.

You tell children a story that intrigues them and you always get that stock, gaping reply: "Is that a true story?" If it's true, it obviously means something extra to them.

The same applies when we're watching television. Part of our mind is always

saying, "Is this a true story?" and another part is replying, "Nope — it's only television."

It's time for our writers to break through this, to deliver that truth that we all seek — the truth that drives a mass audience into the cinemas to see a movie like **Once Were Warriors**.

Writers have to seek out hard subjects, take the hard option, struggle against the

blandness and indifference and sheer cowardice that marks so much of the likes of **Plainclothes** and **Melody Rules**. Out in the work-places there's a bit of a fight-back going on. It's time for writers to join in, time to show a bit of guts and propose something decent in a decent form and dig in their heels and say, "We take our audience seriously."

BANDIT QUEEN



Seema Biswas as Phoolan Devi in **Bandit Queen**

"Liberty", "Radical" or Raving ...?

LINDSAY PERIGO'S greed-is-good **Radio Liberty** has taken to the airwaves, its first campaign being against the collectors and dispersers of the television licence fee, New Zealand On Air. "Nazis On Air" it's been calling them.

Perigo and his cohort Deborah Coddington have been telling their listeners to refuse to pay the licence fee which funds local programmes.

Oddly enough Perigo's previous employer and ex-mate, businessman Alan Gibbs and his free-market World Service Radio ("Radio Roundtable"), was known to have applied unsuccessfully to the very same New Zealand On Air for a funding subsidy to make up for a colossal advertising short-fall.

Perhaps Perigo and Coddington need to assure their audience that they have never and will never try to get New Zealand On Air hand-outs.

Meanwhile Perigo's magazine **Free Radical** has moved into the world of the extraordinary with its latest claim that "a (New Zealand Communist) Party ally working at a high level in the Department of Education almost single-handedly introduced New Maths to a whole generation of school pupils..."

And why did the fiend do this? Why, the New Maths taught in our primary schools "was a Soviet-inspired programme to numb the minds of the young by deliberately confusing them".

Not a lot of people know that.

IN RETURN for a skinny cow and a rusty bike, an 11-year-old Indian girl, Phoolan Devi, is sold as a "wife". She is raped and flees the marriage.

An upper caste member of her village tries to rape her. She fights back, is condemned for showing no respect. She is pack-raped by the village upper caste and paraded naked through her village to complete the humiliation.

A bandit gang is paid to take her away from the village. Again she is violently raped, this time by the gang leader. Once more she fights back, taking over the gang and revenging herself against her tor-

menters.

She returns to her village and slays 30 upper caste men. She becomes a hero to thousands of the lower castes.

The police mercilessly pursue her and her gang. When she finally surrenders in 1983, massive crowds gather to cheer and salute her.

This is the true-life story of **Bandit Queen**, a film now on general release and whose director, Shekhar Kapur, wants to use to show the fate of thousands of women in India, to condemn the caste system there, to make people angry.

He succeeds.

Three days of protests against bank

AUCKLAND

50 protesters of all ages and sizes taking on 600 police, well-trained, well-built and armed with long batons.

Those were the odds on May 2, the first of three days of demonstrations against the Asian Development Bank.

Early morning pushes into Aotea Square and the Carlton Hotel, two of the many venues occupied by the ADB, were easily repulsed by the cops. Protesters were trampled and kicked by police.

Surprise

A lunchtime sit-in at the Bledisloe Building, temporary office of the ADB board, caught the police by surprise.

It took quarter of an hour before a squad of police charged in and chucked the protesters out with considerable force. So ended day one.

Day two started with a scuffle at the Regent Hotel, another ADB haunt. Protest leader Sue Bradford and several other activists were arrested.

It looked like it was going to be a replay of the previous day, with a handful of protesters being slapped down by a seemingly all-powerful police force.

But the balance of forces

changed dramatically with the student demonstration just after mid-day.

3,000 students marched up the main street without a permit and brushed aside a police line trying to divert them away from Aotea Square.

Then there was a rush towards the square which was blocked by several hundred cops. Batons were drawn by police desperate to hold back the charge. Several frenzied struggles severely tested the police line.

About 400 protesters were heavily involved in these struggles. The post-march consensus was that, if there had been a clear objective once the police line was breached, a far larger proportion of the 3,000 in the student march would have taken on the cops.

If this had happened, a senior police officer later admitted, then the already stretched police would have been unable to hold back the protesters.

Student president Brendon Lane and a handful of others were arrested. They were later released without charge.

A two-hour mass rally was held in the middle of the main street while the police stood on helplessly.

In addition to strident criticism of the government's user pays policy which has loaded a \$1 billion debt onto students, speaker after speaker damned the international moneylenders at the ADB conference and the police restrictions on public entry into Aotea Square.

This was a practical example of how different grievances could be linked together to put the wealthy elite on the defensive.

That night, there was lengthy television news coverage of the "liberation" of the main street and the humiliating inability of the police to stop it.

Boost

This gave a terrific boost to the coalition against the ADB. Despite the prospect of police violence, May 4 saw a turnout of 300, six times more than the first day.

There were four major clashes with the police. A push into Bledisloe Building and two attempts to enter the Carlton Hotel were narrowly stopped by the police, who grew more frenzied as the day wore on.

Cops were kneeling protesters in the groin, stomping on those who fell under the crush and using other "tricks of the trade" to in-

flict injuries which were hard for television cameras to pick up.

The police were very conscious that the world's news media were in Auckland for the ADB conference. "The whole world is watching," chanted the protesters.

Savage

Then came the grand finale.

An occupation of the main street opposite Aotea Square sparked off a savage police attack.

Protesters were pushed over and trampled and kicked and dragged along the ground in a series of police shoves.

Altogether, 20 arrests were made.

A number of those arrested were assaulted by the police. Television news that night featured a student who had his head rammed into a television camera.

Sue Bradford was run head-first into a concrete pillar, while fellow unemployed activist Caroline Hatt blacked out after police cut off her air supply in a choker hold.

Objectives

But the demonstration regrouped on the pavement to the applause of hundreds of spectators. They formed the audience for an impromptu media conference by overseas critics of the ADB.

The three days of protests achieved most of the coalition's objectives.

There was a huge increase in public awareness of the ADB's role, and the efforts of NZ cabinet minister's to sell the "turnaround economy" were thwarted.

Instead of the ADB conference being a propaganda coup for local politicians and international financiers, the demonstrations turned it into a public relations disaster for the wealthy elite.

"Driven head-first into concrete pillar"

FOLLOWING HER arrest on May 4, ADB protest leader Sue Bradford was "repeatedly kicked, lifted by her neck and driven head-first into a concrete pillar," said unemployed activist David Flerning.

But it wasn't till five hours later that the police took Sue to hospital where she was treated for concussion.

Her husband Bill said she was "dazed", but the police kept her in custody overnight.

Talking to *Socialist Worker* the next day, Sue said she spent the night vomiting in the cells. Despite frequent requests, she was denied a blanket until 9pm.

She has been charged with obstruction.

What happened to Sue shows the revenge mentality of a police force put under considerable pressure by continual demonstrations and public criticism.

WHERE'S THE ACTION?

ON 2 September 1994, CTU president Ken Douglas advocated a combined trade union campaign to fight for big pay rises.

He said unions should break the law if necessary to obtain the contracts they want.

But no observable practical steps have yet been taken by the head of the Council of Trade Unions to mobilise workers around a united pay campaign.

Dating from his speech, there's still

no action from Ken after 235 days



ADB protesters greet student marchers in Auckland's Queen Street on May 3

Closed-in bubble of wealth & privilege

by GRANT MORGAN

THE SOUNDS of protest fade as you walk between lines of police up the imposing stairs of the Aotea Centre.

Then you're through the glass doors and into another world – the world of the super-rich bankers who tell governments what to do.

The occasion is the \$3 million extravaganza staged by the Asian Development Bank.

After security guards and police (it's hard to tell them apart) run a metal detector over your body to make sure you're not out to assassinate one of the wealthy elite, you stroll into an Aladdin's Cave of riches beyond the ken of

ordinary mortals.

Tables groan with expensive and exotic dishes. Flunkies bustle about to take care of every request by the suits-and-gold-watches. Casual opulence is the order of the day in this air-conditioned palace of the bourgeoisie.

You go to the window to look back at the world you (temporarily) left behind – the world of hard grind, falling incomes and inevitable protests. Beyond the lines of police, beyond the guarded enclave of Aotea Square, you catch a glimpse of tiny figures waving placards being prodded backwards by a police push.

But you can't hear anything through the double glazing, and it seems miles

away. You look around and see you're the only one looking at the protests outside.

The suits-and-gold-watches are all hurrying to seminars on private sector infrastructure opportunities. They haven't the time or the inclination for a side-show like real life.

And since you're a reporter for *Socialist Worker*, you suddenly feel more lonely and isolated and alienated than you've ever been before.

You can't wait to escape from this closed-in bubble of wealth and privilege, this domain of big business, this fantasy land where progress is measured by the value of the dollar and the inflation index and bottom-line profits – not in

Rent Struggle Growing

THE STRUGGLE against rent increases for state houses is gathering steam.

The State Housing Action Coalition (SHAC) is gaining strength as a result of mass leafleting of Auckland state housing areas and some suburban meetings.

Two years behind schedule, the final stage of market rents is now being imposed on state tenants. The long delay is a result of the opposition generated by groups like SHAC.

Housing NZ has announced plans to rent between three and five thousand private houses to sub-let to low income families. At the same time HNZ is continuing to sell off its houses, including some of the type they need.

"A new wave of the rent strike is to be launched on July 1 to co-incide with introduction of market rents for all," said SHAC chairperson Peter Hughes. "Anyone who wants to join should contact SHAC."

SHAC: Ph 634-3984, or (mobile) 025-989409. Or write to SHAC, Box 80-001, Auckland.

terms of the prosperity and security of all humanity.

So after staying only half as long as you should, you rush to the glass doors, fling them open and breathe in the sweet smell

of freedom – the smog-filled air of downtown Auckland.

Well, freedom always was a relative concept.

Rotowhio Occupiers Build Support

THE OCCUPATION of Rotowhio Marae at Whakarewarewa is into its fifth week as *Socialist Worker* goes to press. Members and supporters of Te Roopu Pohutu have been actively campaigning around the Rotorua area to build support for their struggle to have Whakarewarewa returned to Te Arawa.

Leaflets have been distributed to about 20 percent of Rotorua houses, inviting people to visit the marae and "hear the real story". Occupiers report a good response.

A concert held in town on May 4 attracted 200 people and \$95 in donations were collected.

The occupation has resulted in Te Arawa elders from 6 sub-tribes to come together for a joint approach to government over return of the land. The government had previously claimed that it couldn't return Whakarewarewa because there were 6 claims to ownership.

Te Roopu have continued resisting pressure from politicians and some kaumatua to end the occupation. They have begun a Kohanga Reo for the younger children on the occupation as well as lessons on the whakapapa for older children.

Negotiations over a memorandum of understanding for return of the land are continuing. Te Roopu are adamant they will not leave until cast iron guarantees are given for the land's return.

Eyewitnesses to police brutality

PARTICIPANTS in the three days of protest against the Asian Development Bank gave *Socialist Worker* their reactions to the massive – and often brutal – police operation to muzzle opponents of the bank.

• The police actions were "absolutely shocking and frightening," said unemployed activist **Caroline Hatt**, who blacked out after being choked by police when arrested.

• "We're seeing our freedoms eroded," said veteran civil liberties campaigner **Meg McCallum**.

• "The police incited violence," said university environmentalist **Richard Evans**.

• "Police thuggery won't kill the movement," said 80-year-old unemployed campaigner **Steve Hieatt**, who was stomped on and kicked by police.

• "The police used force to intimidate, but the protesters kept fighting for civil liberties," said socialist **Len**

Parker.

• "I challenge what the police are defending," said 65-year-old christian pacifist **John Miller**, who was roughed up by the cops.

• "It was an official overkill on behalf of the fiscal fascists," said union activist **Robert Jones**.

• "I saw Bill Bradford being kicked in the groin just before I was kneed in the same

place," said socialist **Jimmy O'Dea**.

• "I was amazed at seeing so many police defending the ADB," said university environmentalist **Emma Kelly**.

• "There were at least half-a-dozen undercover police mingling with protesters and spying on us," said socialist **Grant Morgan**, who narrowly escaped arrest by a plainclothes cop he'd earlier pointed out.



Sue Bradford shows bruising on her arm, some of the injuries received during her arrest on May 4.

Dunedin Occupation: "An inspiration"

THE LOOK on police faces said it all as over 2,000 Otago University students made a sudden change of direction to occupy their Registry administration building on May 3.

The occupation began magnificently with hundreds cramming every

available space to hear moving speeches in the university council chambers. Speakers included NZ University Students Association president Paul Williams and local student president Rebecca Martin.

Eventually Vice-Chancellor Graeme Fogelberg (the university's chief ad-

ministrator) came into the mass meeting. He promised students he would look at taking firmer action against government education cuts. Fogelberg then asked students to listen to him from outside the Registry. While most people left, a sizeable group remained to occupy the first floor of the building, including the council chambers and the financial section, overnight.

Later, as numbers declined, the administration started to take a harder line. By Thursday afternoon students had been forced out of the finance

section, with Fogelberg demanding they guarantee to leave after a special student-council forum the following day.

After a long and tense meeting on Thursday night, students rejected this ultimatum, and faced with this firm stand, Fogelberg agreed to hold the forum without conditions.

A large crowd attended the forum at which university councillors gave important concessions, including regular student-council forums in the future.

Students left the Regis-

try on Friday afternoon in jubilant mood. The overwhelming feeling was that they would all be back on Tuesday for the full council meeting, prepared to reoccupy if their demands were not properly met.

Among the many people who gave their support to the occupiers was a representative from the lecturers' union, the Association of University Staff, and local Trade Union Federation organiser Campbell Duignan.

He described the occupation as "an inspiration" to other groups fighting against government policies.

"The occupation showed a sense of the possible", said one student.

Where to from here?

The Otago occupation, along with militant protests in Auckland and elsewhere have re-invigorated the education fightback. The question students were asking around the country last week was "Where to from here?" The debate that ran right through the Otago occupation was between direct action and going through "proper channels". But students have been trying to go through "proper channels" for years now.

The university authorities may sometimes sympathise with students, but in the end the administrators run the university in the government's interests, not ours. Nowhere is this better displayed than at Otago. In 1993, after refusing to attend student forums, the university sanctioned the use of violence by the police against peaceful demonstrators.

The Otago university

councillors promised to criticise government education policies when they were put under direct pressure by the mass occupation. We have to continue the sort of actions taken by Otago students.

Not only would a series of occupations have a much greater impact, but their size and number would make it much harder for them to be intimidated by university authorities and the police.

Occupations and other forms of direct action are the way forward. We need to coordinate action with university staff who are tired of being fobbed off with promises about pay rises that never come, and would welcome the opportunity to join forces with students.

The Otago occupation was magnificent. Let's make sure it's only the beginning of National's headache.

AUSTRALIAN STUDENT PROTESTS

AROUND 10,000 students took to the streets across Australia on 3 May against increases to HECS (Higher Education Contribution Scheme), up-front postgraduate fees and the creeping threat of undergraduate fees.

Students weren't fooled by statements by Education Minister Simon Crean who claims that next week's budget will "pleasantly surprise" students.

They know that the reason Labour has backed away from bringing in up-front undergraduate fees is that it fears an immense

backlash from students.

It didn't want a repeat of the 8-day occupation of the Vice Chancellor's office at the ANU in Canberra, or the 15,000-strong day of action on 23 March this year.

In Sydney, 1000 students out-manoeuvred police and occupied the lift foyer to the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) offices.

After a department representative accepted thousands of petition signatures, students marched on the NSW Labour Party headquarters demanding that they reverse their user-pays education policies.

The march then moved onto the Australian Stock Exchange, chanting "No fees, No way, make big business pay".

Melbourne and Perth had protests of around 1500, Adelaide and Hobart 1000, Brisbane 500, Canberra 200, and Darwin 150.

Perth's demo was particularly militant. Students stormed the DEET building, and despite police efforts to keep the glass doors shut, the glass shattered and students poured in to occupy.

In Canberra, a rally on May 11 outside Parliament House has been backed by the ACT Trades and Labour Council.

Around The Country

AUCKLAND

See report on Asian Development Bank protests, page 14.

WAIKATO

Two hundred students at Waikato University took part in a campus rally on May 3. During speeches a number of solidarity messages from Australian, British, Canadian students were read and warmly received.

PALMERSTON NORTH

Around 400 students marched from Massey University to the centre of Palmerston North. The march targeted the Inland Revenue building, drawing attention to the IRD's role in collecting student loan repayments and its recent increase in interest rates. Realising the students were likely to enter the building, a squad of police withdrew inside the IRD and locked the doors.

WELLINGTON

Several hundred Wellington students took part in a campus rally. Students signed a billion dollar cheque which was later delivered to parliament.

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